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made arrangements, at the request of the Röntgen Society, for the examination of materials employed for the protection of X-ray workers.

We learn from the *British Medical Journal* that the late Miss Mary Hamilton, of Glasgow, left £165,000 to Scottish institutions, including £30,000 to the Western Infirmary, Glasgow, for a Hamilton ward and £7,500 for ordinary purposes; £10,000 to the Glasgow Royal Infirmary for ordinary purposes; £7,500 each to the Glasgow Hospital for Sick Children and the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary; £7,500 to the Victoria Infirmary, Glasgow; £5,000 to the Royal Edinburgh Hospital for Incurables; and £1,000 each to the Glasgow Ophthalmic Institution, Glasgow Hospital for Diseases of the Ear, Nose and Throat, and the Glasgow Eye Infirmary.

It is stated in *Nature* that at the meeting of the City of London Court of Common Council, on July 20, it was resolved: (1) That in view of the great advantages which would accrue to British commerce in foreign markets by the use of the decimal system of coinage and weights and measures, in the opinion of this court it is desirable that steps should be taken to ensure its immediate introduction, so that it may be already in operation at the conclusion of the war; (2) that in view of the fact that England and the Allies are entering into arrangements for concerted action with regard to future trade matters, it would be of immense value if one language could be recognized as the commercial language, and taught in all schools, here and abroad. By so doing, English, French, Russian, Esperanto or any other language decided on would form the basis of communication on business matters throughout the world.

At the fifty-third meeting of the American Chemical Society, to be held in New York City during the last week of September, the division of biological chemistry will hold, on Wednesday morning, September 27, a joint session with the division of physical and inorganic chemistry to discuss theoretical colloid chemistry. On Thursday morning a joint

session with the division of industrial chemists and chemical engineers will be held to discuss the practical applications of colloid chemistry. On Friday and Saturday mornings the division of biological chemistry will meet for the presentation and discussion of the papers of its regular program. Papers on colloidal chemistry are as follows:

- D. B. Lake, "Irreversible Absorption of Dyes."
- A. B. Macallum, "Surface Tension of Protoplasm."
- G. H. A. Clowes, "Phase Relations in Biological Systems."
- W. D. Bancroft, "Displacement of Equilibrium of Catalytic Agents."
- E. F. Farnan, "Stabilization."
- E. L. Mack, "Showerproofing."
- J. M. Ball, "The Photographic Developer."
- Irving Langmuir, "Structure of Liquids with Particular Reference to Surface Tension."
- T. R. Briggs, "Electrical Endosmose."
- Charles Baskerville, "Refining of Oils."
- C. J. Fink, "Relation between Chemical Composition and Electrical Resistance."
- T. R. Briggs, "Paints."
- L. A. Keane, "Yellow Bricks."
- D. Spence, "Vulcanization of Rubber."
- A. W. Davison, "Adsorption of Chromium Hide Powder."
- A. W. Fisher, "Adsorption of Sulphuric Acid by Hide Powder."
- Clifford Richardson, "Asphalt."
- L. A. Keane, "Plaster of Paris."
- Jerome Alexander, "Selective Adsorption and Differential Diffusion."
- H. W. Gillett, "Emulsion and Suspensions with Molten Metals."
- C. L. Parsons, "The Purification of Kaolin."
- W. D. Bancroft, "Fritting and Fusing."

#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS

THE University of Chicago has received a fund to create the Edith Barnard Memorial Fellowship in Chemistry. Miss Barnard, who was instructor in the department of chemistry when she died, had received three degrees in science from the university, that of bachelor of science in 1903, that of master of science in 1905, and that of doctor of philosophy in 1907; and she had been connected with the department for ten years.

BEREA COLLEGE announces a gift of \$10,000 from the late James Talcott, of New York City, received shortly before his death. This gift was part of a total pledge for \$40,000 for the erection of a girls' dormitory, which will be ready for occupancy on January 1.

THE New York School of Dental Hygiene has become allied with the new Columbia University School of Dentistry and the College of Physicians and Surgeons. The school will open on September 27, classes being held in the Vanderbilt Clinic.

IRVING H. BLAKE, A.M. (Brown, '12), instructor in the Oregon Agricultural College, has been appointed instructor in the department of zoology, Syracuse University.

MR. CHARLES COLBY, recently of the Peabody College for Teachers, Nashville, Tenn., has become instructor in geography at the University of Chicago.

At the University of Chicago, Anton Julius Carlson, of the department of physiology, and Charles Manning Child, of the department of zoology, have been promoted to professorships. Lee Irving Knight, of the department of botany, has been promoted to an assistant professorship. New appointments are: Ernest Watson Burgess, of Ohio State University, to be assistant professor in the department of sociology and anthropology; Professor Jean Piccard, of the University of Lausanne, Switzerland, to be assistant professor in the department of chemistry, and Dr. W. B. Sharpe and William E. Cary, to be instructors in the department of hygiene and bacteriology.

## DISCUSSION AND CORRESPONDENCE

### PRESIDENT WILSON'S SCIENTIFIC APPOINTMENTS

THE two articles in SCIENCE of August 25, 1916, on "Scientific Appointments under the Government" and "President Wilson's Scientific Appointments" are interesting and suggestive, but not entirely convincing. They do not fully cover the question; the writers were apparently not familiar with a number of facts which have a very important bearing upon the

point at issue. In fairness to all concerned it is necessary to call attention to a few scientific appointments made by the Wilson administration about which the writers failed to enlighten the readers of SCIENCE and *The Scientific Monthly*.

In the first place, it has been generally understood (and even claimed by some of the parties interested) that the original administration slate contemplated the appointment of E. Lester Jones to the position of commissioner of fisheries. That this slate was broken is much to the credit of the American Society of Naturalists and the American Society of Zoologists. But what followed? The president immediately appointed Mr. Jones deputy commissioner of fisheries. That position, in many respects, even more important to science than that of the commissionership itself, and which should have been filled only upon the recommendation of the commissioner, was at once filled by the appointment of Mr. Jones. The commissioner of fisheries was not even consulted. He was completely ignored by the president and the secretary of commerce not only in this case but in other important appointments in the bureau of fisheries, a few of which may be mentioned. One of the first was the appointment, without even consulting the commissioner of fisheries, of a young man as private secretary to the commissioner. It would seem that the chief of an important bureau should be permitted to select his own private secretary, the position being so distinctively personal and confidential. The young man appointed was, it is understood, from the home town of John H. Rothermel, at that time a congressman from Pennsylvania and chairman of a committee of the House that had been for some years conducting certain fur-seal hearings. The young man was neither a stenographer nor a typewriter (it was said he was a plumber). It was said at the time (and there is every reason to believe it was true) that he was appointed as a spy to keep Rothermel and Henry W. Elliott informed as to the commissioner's relations to fur-seal matters, in which Rothermel at that time was very active—so active, indeed, that at the next